

COUNCIL WORK SESSION – December 10, 2013

The City Council met in an Executive Session at 4:00 PM to discuss Potential Litigation. At 4:45 p.m., Mayor Schlager called the regular work session to order with all Councilmembers present except Councilman Hedquist.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation by Jesse Miller regarding work that is being done to establish a local food hub in Casper. Council thanked Mr. Miller for the information.

The second presentation was by Mike Miller, with Phillips 66, regarding the Seminole Pipeline that runs through Casper on the east side. The existing route of the pipeline is through the neighborhood along Newport Drive and runs through several backyards. Over the years, the property owners have planted trees and constructed fences over the pipeline easement. At this time, the company has identified some significant maintenance that needs to be done on this 50 year old line. They have decided, that rather than dig up the entire area, which would cause disruption and damage to the individual homeowners, they will try to relocate the portion of the line that runs through the development. To do this, they need to acquire right-of-way farther east and south of the existing route. The discussion with the property owners of the proposed easement has resulted in some concerns with the southern most connection for the new line. The company is requesting for the City of Casper to acquire the right-of-way for Country Club Road south of Wyoming Boulevard, and County Road 508 on the north side of Wyoming Boulevard, to allow the pipeline to be located within the road right of way. The City has been in discussions with the County to acquire the Country Club Road portion as a connector street for the latest Centennial development. Council agreed to support this proposal if the County will transfer ownership to the City and if the reconstruction of the roadway is paid for by a combination of the pipeline company, the County Commissioners and adjoining property owners.

Pete Meyers, Assistant Public Services Director, introduced Cindie Langston to present the proposed rate schedule for Solid Waste rates beginning January 1, 2014, and January 1, 2015. The recommendation from staff and from the Solid Waste Committee was for a 1% increase in 2014 and a 1% increase in 2015 for residential collection services. Other changes in the rate schedule would apply to commercial collection and would represent 2% each year. The basic balefill rates will not change in 2014 and could increase by 2.2% in 2015. Council agreed to move this proposal forward to the December 17, 2013, Council Meeting.

David Hill, Public Utilities Manager, presented a report and recommendation from the Casper Public Utilities Advisory Board for rate increases for water and sewer beginning January 1, 2014. David commented that the issue with the water and sewer funds are that both are capital intensive expenditures. Both the Water Treatment Plant and the Wastewater Treatment Plant are in need for capital investment with the Wastewater Plant depending on changes in the regulatory requirements which would impact the treatment processes upgrades and costs. In addition, there will be investments required for ongoing water line replacements and lining of sewer mains. The recommendation is for a 1.1% increase in water rates beginning January 1, 2014 and a 1.1% increase on January 1, 2015. The sewer rates are proposed to increase 8.2% on January 1, 2014, and 8.3% on January 1, 2015. Council agreed to bring these changes forward to the December 17, 2013, Council Meeting.

Liz Becker and Craig Collins from the Community Development Department presented a report and staff recommendation for the implementation of a fee schedule to cover the costs associated with the statutory requirement to prepare an Annexation Study and publish the summary for each annexation request. The costs associated with meeting the state requirements for publications associated with any annexation application are currently being absorbed by the general fund. It is proposed to institute a fee in the amount of \$600 to cover the cost of meeting these requirements. Council agreed to move this proposal forward to the December 17, 2013, Council Meeting.

Police Chief Chris Walsh presented a proposal from the Police Department and the Liquor Dealers to amend the current ordinance regarding demerits for violations of the liquor ordinances. The recommendation is to omit language which provides for demerit points to be assigned for permitting persons to leave the licensed premise with open alcoholic beverages. This issue would instead require that the establishments must place signs on each exit which specifically prohibits customers from taking open containers out of the building. In addition, the section which prohibits the licensee, agent, or employee, from distributing or possessing a controlled substance will be amended to include a statement which makes it a demerit offense only if the Licensee knew about the distribution or possession. The final change will consolidate the code sections with specific reference to sales to minors to make them a single offense rather than multiple demerits. Council agreed with the recommendations and supported moving the amendments forward to a regular Council Meeting.

Tory Cutrell, Metro Animal Control Manager, presented an update on the proposal to add language to the animal control ordinances to include limits on tethering of animals which could be considered animal cruelty. Council agreed to moving this ordinance forward to a regular City Council Meeting.

Liz Becker, Community Development Director, asked the Council to support a proposal to a partial release of a real estate mortgage on a portion of the Triflection Addition. This release is related to a Community Development Loan for the renovation of a commercial building in the Old Yellowstone District. The release would only apply to a vacant lot adjacent to the building and would not impact the value of the property which would remain as collateral for the City's outstanding loan. Council agreed to move this proposal forward to a regular City Council Meeting.

Mayor Schlager asked the Council to place their names in the running for Vice Mayor for 2014. Councilman Cathey and Councilman Powell both indicated that they were interested in being considered for the Vice Mayor position. The Mayor asked for interest in the Mayor position and Councilman Meyer and Councilman Sandoval indicated a willingness to submit their names for consideration. The ballots will be prepared by the City Attorney to be distributed at the pre-meeting on December 17, 2013. The straw vote will be taken at that time, and the final approval of the new leadership will take place at the January 7, 2014, Council Meeting.

At 7:20 p.m. it was moved by Councilman Meyer, seconded by Councilman Sandoval to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations. The vote in favor was unanimous.

At 8:00 p.m it was moved by Councilman Meyer, seconded by Councilman Bertoglio to adjourn the meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous.